

The Mercury News

# Sunday

BayArea  
NewsGroup

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**Eat Drink Play:**  
Instant Pot to the rescue in the kitchen! Well, it's not without a few ups and downs along the way. F1

\$2.50 111 FEBRUARY 18, 2018

'IT SHOULDN'T BE SO INSANE'

# UNDER 40 OR A RENTER?

## GOOD LUCK AFFORDING THE CALIFORNIA DREAM



PHOTO BY DAI SUGANO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A five-county poll conducted for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and this news organization finds that more than one-third of Bay Area apartment renters and one-quarter of residents in their 20s and 30s say they are struggling to afford their housing.

### Poll: Cost of housing creating young/old gap 'greater than it's ever been'

By Katy Murphy

kmurphy@bayareanewsgroup.com

Samantha Sprau rents a 450-square-foot studio north of downtown Oakland with appliances and gold-speckled laminate that could be decades older than she is.

It costs \$1,575 per month.

"It's a ton for one person to pay," said the 27-year-old battery engineer, who finds herself relying on the same grocery-skimping survival skills she learned as a broke undergraduate at San Jose State: snacks for lunch and "lentil soup for days."

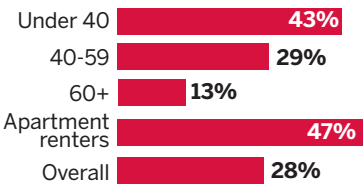
"I feel like it shouldn't be so insane," she said, "that a single professional should be able to afford a studio apartment."

The Bay Area economy is booming, but

#### BUDGET BUSTER

The high cost of housing is squeezing residents, especially renters and people under 40.

**Has the cost of housing made you cut back a great deal?**



Sources: J. Moore Methods Inc. Public Opinion Research for Silicon Valley Leadership Group and the Bay Area News Group.

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SEE PAGE A8 FOR MORE

if you're under 40 or a renter, chances are high that you don't travel or go out to eat much, and you might be cutting back on groceries. A five-county poll conducted for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and this news organization also found that more than one-third of Bay Area apartment renters and one-quarter of residents in their 20s and 30s say they are struggling to afford their housing.

Overall, 19 percent of those surveyed said they were having trouble making their monthly housing payments or rent. But those renting apartments were nearly three times as likely as those living in condominiums to have that problem — 34 percent compared to 13 percent, the survey

DREAM » PAGE 8

LIFE IS BUT A ...

## Golden State ideal — real or just a notion?

A look at the promises and the reality of what we have, how we live

By Matt Levin

CALmatters

**SACRAMENTO** » There's no standard definition of the California dream. If you could ask the 39 million current Califor-

nians about the dream, aside from most agreeing that the daily temperature should not dip lower than the mid-50s, you likely would get 39 million different answers.

But the so-called "Golden Era" of California — that faded Technicolor image of a magical time in the 1960s when, as soon as you crossed the state line, Ronald Reagan would hand-de-

liver you a two-story house, 2.5 children and tiki-themed patio furniture — still seeps into our expectations.

But reality could not be further from that stereotype.

Beginning today and with a series of stories over the coming month — in partnership with news organizations around the state — will examine the decades-old

promise and current-day reality of the California dream. Does it still exist? What kind of life does it really offer? And for whom?

As a pivotal election nears, the answers to those questions will shape life decisions about where to live, about raising our families and about choosing our careers.

Many residents believe

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PYEONGCHANG  
WINTER OLYMPICS



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

United States' Garrett Roe and Russia's Sergei Andronov vie for the puck Saturday in South Korea.

## USA hockey in a must-win situation

Russia outclassed the United States, 4-0, on Saturday in the group stage of the Olympics. The loss forces the U.S. to win an elimination game to make the quarterfinals stage. SPORTS C1

#### NEWS ON THE GO

Download Bay Area News Digest from the app store for your iPhone.

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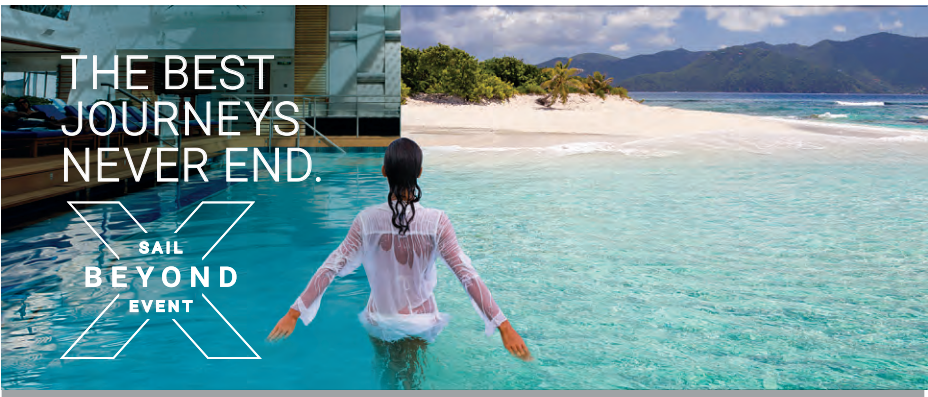
#### WEATHER

H: 57-58 L: 38-40  
Full report on B18



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